

Station show the species to be widely distributed from Kent to Edinburgh, and it has also been recorded from Dublin docks.

*H. punctatissima* occurs throughout the tropics and sub-tropical regions and is regarded as a "tramp" species, extending its range by being carried in ships, etc. Nearly all British records are from heated premises, usually in the larger urban areas. The few colonies found outdoors are mostly associated with decaying organic matter producing heat by fermentation, such as rubbish pits, bone heaps, and a coffee waste tip. Rural captures appear to be rare and include two specimens in flood refuse at Whitstable, Kent (1906); single queens swept in a wood near Bromley, Kent (1886), and half a mile from Penarth, Glamorgan (1914); and a record from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (1895). Dr Andrew Bourke (*in litt.*) during a recent study observed that colonies were unobtrusive until the emergence of winged queens which then often fly to light and gather at windows.

The possibility of the Hemington specimen of *H. punctatissima* originating from within the house is remote as I have kept detailed records of any Coleoptera, and unusual insects of other Orders, in the garden and house since it was built in 1973. Dr Bourke states that there are no data on the distance that a queen can fly but considers the compost heap in my garden as the most likely origin for this ant. However, sieving the fermenting layers failed to reveal any more specimens. The immediate environs of my house comprise a single row of some ten properties surrounded by intensively farmed arable land. The village is 6 km SE of the small market town of Oundle, and 18 km SW of the City of Peterborough.— R. COLIN WELCH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2LS.

### Recent range-extensions of some Auchenorrhyncha

Those of the following recent records of Auchenorrhyncha marked (\*) are new vice-county records according to maps in the *Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme* Newsletter 5, 1985.

#### CERCOPIDAE

*Cercopis vulnerata* Illiger. Drowned at sea, off Hoylake, Cheshire SJ159889, 28th May, 1985. Probably only modern Cheshire record.

#### CICADELLIDAE

*Ledra aurita* (Linnaeus). Breeding on oak (\*) Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. SP03, 1986-1990. Breeding on oak (rare) Stanway, Gloucestershire, SP03, 24th July 1990. Adult on *Acer ginnala* Maximowicz (\*), Little Comberton, Worcestershire SO94, 29th September 1986. Breeding on *Acer campestre* L., Pershore, Worcestershire, SO94, 22nd July 1990.

*Pediopsis tiliae* (Germar). Under *Tilia x europaea* L. (\*) Broadway, Worcestershire, SO03, 10th September 1987. On *Tilia platyphyllos* Scop.

Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, SO94, 7th July 1990. Fewer than ten post-1969 U.K. records.

*Aphrodes flavostriatus* (Donovan). Dry bank amongst *Aubrietia* (\*), Broadway, Worcestershire, SP03, 26th July 1988.

*Macrosteles frontalis* (Scott). Breeding on *Equisetum arvense* L. Aston Mill, Worcestershire, SO93, 1986 - 1988. Adult with larval sac of dryinid attached, 26th June 1988 (vide Askew, R.R. *Parasitic Insects*, Heinemann, 1971).

#### CIXIIDAE

*Oliarus leporinus* (Linnaeus). Breeding at roots Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia officinalis* Linnaeus, upper saltmarsh, Sand Bay, Somerset, ST36, 27th May 1987. Few sites on Bristol Channel coast.

I thank Dr A.J. Stewart for naming *P. tiliae* and *M. frontalis*.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.

#### *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Zeller) (Lep.: Gracillariidae) in Derbyshire.

On 11th November 1990 I attended the Derbyshire Entomological Society's annual exhibition at Elvaston Castle Country Park, near Derby (VC57). During the course of the afternoon I took a walk in the grounds and was attracted to a large *Pyracantha* bush growing against a garden wall. Almost immediately I found a single mine of *P. leucographella*. However, a brief search of the same and nearby bushes failed to reveal any others.

Following the discovery of this species in Britain in 1989 (Emmet, A.M., 1989, *Ent. Rec.* **101**: 189-194) records have been confined to Essex and adjacent counties. The mined leaf was sent to the Rev David Agassiz who kindly confirmed that this is the first occurrence outside that area.— H.E. BEAUMONT, 7 Brampton Road, West Melton, Rotherham, South Yorks S63 6AN.

#### Another unusual pupation site for *Cerula vinula* Linnaeus (Lep.: Notodontidae).

Adrian Riley's report (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 296) of an unusual pupation site of *Cerula vinula* reminded me of an even more unusual site used by this species that I came across early in 1990. On 11.iii.1990 in the old roadside quarry near Craighburn (OS grid ref. NT2354), Peeblesshire I found what appeared to be a cocoon of *C. vinula* some 15cm up an old flower stalk (9mm diameter) of *Senecio jacobaea*. The clump of Ragwort was situated on top of a small hillock some 25 metres distance from the nearest *Salix* bush. With the winter die-back of vegetation the cocoon was clearly visible from a considerable distance. In due course an imago of *C. vinula* emerged on 3.v.1990. In view of the aberrant pupation site I had at least expected the larva to have been parasitised.—K.P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HS.